

DISCOVERY OF FIRST RESIDENT POPULATION OF THE EUROPEAN BEE, *MEGACHILE APICALIS* IN THE UNITED STATES (HYMENOPTERA: MEGACHILIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT: The first resident population in the United States of *Megachile apicalis* Spinola is reported from Santa Barbara County, California.

North American records of the European *Megachile* (*Eutricharaea*) *apicalis* Spinola ("Canada, N.J., Va.") listed in the Catalog of Hymenoptera of America North of Mexico (1979) are old, none later than 1931, and are based on few specimens collected in eastern North America (4 females, 2 doubtful males; Mitchell 1937, 1962). Indeed Mitchell (1962) held that "It is not clear . . . that *M. (E.) apicalis* has been entirely successful in becoming established on this continent."

Returning from a collecting trip to San Marcos Pass (site at ca. 610 m elevation), Santa Barbara County, CA (Aug. 10, 1982), Jack Hall (Dept. of Ent., Univ. of Calif., Riverside) and I were surprised to find 2 female *M. (E.) apicalis* among the specimens taken. Exactly one year later, I returned to the same site, a small clearing within chaparral, and collected an additional 8 females and 7 males on thistle [*Cirsium? vulgare* (Savi) Ten.] and on *Lotus scoparius* (Nutt. in T. & G.) Otteley. The following day three additional males were taken on a lavender "aster", *Erigeron* sp., growing along the yellow pine-wooded margin of a firebreak, adjacent to chaparral, (at 1160 m) near Cachuma Saddle, on Figueroa Mt., some 30 km east of San Marcos Pass.

There can be no doubt that *M. (E.) apicalis* is now established in Santa Barbara County, a breadth of the continent distant from older, scattered records. Thus California alone has resident populations of all three species of the European subgenus *Eutricharaea* that are known to occur in the United States: *M. (E.) apicalis*, *M. (E.) concinna* Smith and *M. (E.) rotundata* (F.) [= *M. (E.) pacifica* (Panzer)], all readily recognized by means of F. D. Parker's fine key (1978). Gratitude is expressed to Dr. Parker for the loan of a pair of *M. (E.) apicalis* for comparison with the specimens from Santa Barbara County.

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